DTG 061905Z FEB 91
FROM FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
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SUBJ: DIA COMMONWEALTH INTSUM--MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA 146-91/6 FEB 91.
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(U) THE ITEMS CONTAINED IN THIS INTSUM HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY DIA
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Non Responsive

RWANDA: REBEL ATTACKS. (G)
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RWANDA: REBEL ATTACKS. (Θ)
AS OF 2145Z 5 FEB 91
1. (Θ) RWANDAN REBELS HAVE RENEWED ATTACKS AGAINST NORTHERN TOWNS.
2. (Θ) ON 2 FEBRUARY, THE DAY AFTER ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
   GENERAL SECRETARY SALIM VISITED RUHENGERI, THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC
   FRONT (RPF) LAUNCHED ANOTHER ATTACK ON THE TOWN. IN THE EARLY
   MORNING HOURS, RPF TROOPS CONVERGED ON RUHENGERI IN A THREE-PRONGED
   ASSAULT FROM THE NORTH, WEST, AND EAST BUT WERE REPULSED BY RWANDAN
   GOVERNMENT FORCES. THIS INCIDENT IS IN CONTRAST TO THE 23 JANUARY
   RPF ATTACK, IN WHICH THE REBELS OVERRAN RUHENGERI. AS OF 3
   FEBRUARY, THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMED THAT ALL WAS QUIET, BUT RESIDENTS
   REPORTED CONTINUED SPORADIC SHOOTING AND A GRENADE ATTACK ON THE
   FRENCH HOSPITAL.
3. (Θ) ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE
   STRENGTH OF THE ATTACKING REBELS, THE FORCE MOST LIKELY CONSISTED OF
   SEVERAL BATTALIONS. GOVERNMENT FORCES, WHICH INCLUDED THE HUYE AND
   RUHENGERI BATTALIONS, AS WELL AS THE PARACOMMANDO BATTALION,
   PROBABLY HAD 2,000 TROOPS. THIS NUMBER IS ABOUT DOUBLE THE NORMAL
   STRENGTH FOR THE GARRISON.
4. (Θ) ON 4 FEBRUARY THE RPF CONDUCTED TWO SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS IN
   THE GISENGYI PREFECTURE, SOUTHWEST OF RUHENGERI. THE FIRST WAS
   DIRECTED AT THE BIGOGWE COMMANDO TRAINING CENTER, AND THE SECOND
   APPARENTLY TOOK PLACE JUST SOUTH OF GISENGYI NEAR THE BRALIRWA
   BREWERY. IN ADDITION TO THE TRAINING UNIT AT BIGOGWE, THE ONLY
OTHER RWANDAN MILITARY UNITS USUALLY STATIONED IN THE AREA IS A BATTALION IN GISENYI.

5. THE REBELS CONTINUE TO OCCUPY A SMALL SECTION OF FORESTED LAND IN RWANDA'S VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK. THUS FAR, GOVERNMENT FORCES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REESTABLISH CONTROL OVER THAT AREA.

7. EXPANDING THE TERRITORY UNDER ITS CONTROL IN THE NORTH OR, AT THE VERY LEAST, REDUCING THE RWANDAN ARMED FORCES' ABILITY TO EXERCISE TERRITORIAL CONTROL, WOULD MOST LIKELY GIVE THE RPF MORE LEVERAGE AGAINST PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA'S ADMINISTRATION. IN ADDITION, CONTINUED GOVERNMENT MILITARY OPERATIONS AND THE DISRUPTION OF PRIMARY CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LOC'S WILL STRAIN THE RWANDAN ECONOMY, FURTHER REDUCING HABYARIMANA'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN A HARD LINE IN NEGOTIATIONS.